THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expenditure on Roads

2351. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that six percent : of the Gross Domestic Product used to be spent on the development and expansion of the road routes particularly on National Highways during the first two five year plans;

(b) if so, the fac in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that only 3 to 4 percent of the GDP was spent on the road routes during the years of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) if not, the facts thereof and the reasons for continuous decrease in the expenditure on the roads head and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c). It is true that the investment in road sector including National Highways has come down from 6.89% of the total plan expenditure in the Ist Five Year Plan to about 3% in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(d) Due to overall constraint of resources, and the need to take care of other social sectors, the investment in the road sector has been declining.

(e) This Ministry is mainly responsible for the development of National Highways, for which the Govt. has already taken measure to involve private sector. Some of the State Govts. have also taken similar measures in respect of State roads.

Physical Education in Schools

2352. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Advisory Board on Education had recommended for making physical education compulsory in all schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the State Governments have taken steps for implementing the recommendations;

(d) if so, the number of schools in each State/Union Territory, in which physical education has been made compulsory; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for effective implementation of the recommendations by all the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (e). The Central Advisory Board on Education (CABE) had recommended inter-alia, making physical education and sports compulsory in schools and assigning atleast 40 minutes everyday preferably as the first period daily under the supervision of a trained teacher. The recommendations of the CABE Committee had been generally accepted and circulated to all the concerned for implementation. The implementation of the recommendations is a continuing process. The Central Government have set up a Monitoring Committee in June, 1995 to look into the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the CABE Committee. The Monitoring Committee have advised the States to prepare perspective plans for implementing the recommendations.

World Bank Assistance

2353. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of the project proposal sent by Government of Gujarat to the Union Government for external aid/World Bank assistance for augmenting surface water recharge in over exploited acquifiers of North Gujarat at the estimated cost of Rs. 110.65 crores;

(b) whether the investment clearance has been given by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the revised project proposal based on the suggestions given by the State Government to the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The project proposal for "Augmenting Surface Water Recharge in over Exploited Acquifiers of North Gujarat" at the estimated cost of Rs. 110.65 crores has been recommended to Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) in March, 1996 for posing the same to any external donor agency for assistance. Response on the same is awaited.

[Translation]

Vacancies in Central Universities

2354. SHRI VIJAY PATEL . Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to fill up all the vacancies likely to arise in the Central Universities only by the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?